A Successful Year of Science Education

Left: Students from all over the state participated in Asombro’s New Mexico Climate Champions project. At the Summit in January, students displayed the action projects they created to help ameliorate the effects of climate change on New Mexico water and energy resources.

Below: We published two papers in peer-reviewed journals in 2018. This paper in BioScience (volume 68, issue 9) focused on Asombro’s strategies to meet the needs of teachers and students.

With the support of our volunteers and donors, Asombro reached 25,783 students in 2018!

Here are a few of our favorite moments.

Above: In our Desert Stories program, students learn science, math, and language arts. They also begin to see themselves as scientists. Note the open-reel meter tape in the hand of this 3rd grader who drew his favorite activity from the program!

Right: Following Asombro’s teacher workshop in July, all 14 participants reported that their knowledge and confidence using the new science standards increased.

Left: Following the 2018 Data Jam, we worked with our colleagues in Maryland, New York, and Puerto Rico (sites that have created their own Data Jams modeled after ours) to get students’ feedback. The percentage of students who reported high or very high knowledge and interest in the local environment increased dramatically following the Data Jam experience.
Education Programs

Here are the programs from November 2018 - January 2019.

1/2-Nov Sierra MS - Energy Transfer
1-Nov Oñate HS - Cycling of Matter
5/7-Nov Zia MS - Energy Transfer
5/7-Nov Camino Real MS - White Sands Lizards
7/8-Nov Oñate HS - Cycling of Matter
8-Nov Alameda Elem - field trip
9-Nov Oñate HS - Cycling of Matter
9-Nov Columbia Elem - Science Interns
12-Nov Camino Real MS - Data Jam
12/13-Nov Columbia Elem - Science Interns
14-Nov LC Catholic - Mineral ID, White Sands Lizards, Energy Transfer
14-Nov Oñate HS - Cycling of Matter
15-Nov Columbia Elem - Science Interns
15-Nov Mesa MS - Energy Transfer
16-Nov Oñate HS - Cycling of Matter
16-Nov Mesa MS - Energy Transfer
19-Nov Take It Outdoors, NM - Turkey Time Children's Event
27-Nov Centennial HS - Cycling of Matter
27-Nov Mesilla Park Elem - Science Interns
27/28-Nov Oñate HS - Cycling of Matter
28-Nov LC Catholic - Animal Adaptations, Arthropod Identification
28-Nov Sunrise Elem - Science Interns
29-Nov Lynn MS - White Sands Lizard
29-Nov J Paul Taylor Academy - Animal Adaptations
29-Nov Mesilla Park Elem - Science Interns
30-Nov Sunrise Elem - Science Interns
3-Dec Camino Real MS - Data Jam
3-Dec Centennial HS - Cycling of Matter
3-Dec Lynn MS - White Sands Lizard
3/4-Dec Vista MS - Greenhouse Effect
4/5-Dec Picacho MS - Energy Transfer
4/5-Dec Sunrise Elem - Science Interns
5/6/7-Dec Sierra MS - White Sands Lizards
6-Dec Columbia Elem - Sun & Shade
7-Dec Picacho MS - Carbon Cycle
7-Dec Mesilla Park Elem - Science Interns
10-Dec Mesilla Park Elem - Science Interns
10-11-Dec Camino Real MS - Data Jam
10-12 Dec Vista MS - Energy Transfer
11-Dec Monte Vista Elem - field trip
12-Dec East Picacho Elem - Plant Structure & Function
12-Dec LC Catholic - Watching the Weather
12-14 Dec Sunrise Elem - Science Interns
13-Dec J Paul Taylor Acad. - Watching the Weather
14-Dec Columbia Elem - field trip
17-Dec Sunrise Elem - Science Interns
17-Dec J Paul Taylor Acad. - Up in the Air
17/18-Dec Camino Real MS - Energy Transfer
17/18-Jan Mesa MS - White Sands Lizards
18-Jan Columbia Elem - Desert Stories
22/23-Jan Arrowhead Park HS - Cycling of Matter
22-Jan Columbia Elem - Desert Stories
22-Jan Sunrise Elem (GISD) - Life Cycles
23-Jan Columbia Elem - Desert Stories
24-Jan J Paul Taylor Acad. - Life Cycles
24-Jan Doña Ana Elem - Plant Structure & Function
24-Jan J Paul Taylor Acad. - LandPKS
25-Jan J Paul Taylor Acad. - LandPKS
29-Jan Aldo Leopold MS - Data Jam
30-Jan E Picacho Elem - Desert Stories
30-Jan LC Catholic - Life Cycles
31-Jan J Paul Taylor Acad. - LandPKS
31-Jan Zia MS - Data Jam

Do you want to get better acquainted with the Chihuahuan Desert?

The Asombro Institute for Science Education will be posting a scientist on duty at our Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park on the first Saturday of each month. We invite you to come out to explore and learn at the Nature Park! An Asombro Institute Scientist will be on duty from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM to answer questions and help orient visitors to the property.

- Free drinking water, hot chocolate, coffee & cookies
- Free souvenirs
- Merchandise available for purchase
- Natural history exhibits
- Trail guides and scavenger hunts to help you explore!

First Saturday of each month:
February 2nd, 8-12
March 2nd, 8-12
April 6th, 8-12

Scientist Saturday Mornings
at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park

Thanks to your support, Asombro staff provided 1,123 hours of science for 25,493 students in 2018!

Here are the programs from November 2018 - January 2019.

1/2-Nov Sierra MS - Energy Transfer
1-Nov Oñate HS - Cycling of Matter
5/7-Nov Zia MS - Energy Transfer
5/7-Nov Camino Real MS - White Sands Lizards
7/8-Nov Oñate HS - Cycling of Matter
8-Nov Alameda Elem - field trip
9-Nov Oñate HS - Cycling of Matter
9-Nov Columbia Elem - Science Interns
12-Nov Camino Real MS - Data Jam
12/13-Nov Columbia Elem - Science Interns
14-Nov LC Catholic - Mineral ID, White Sands Lizards, Energy Transfer
14-Nov Oñate HS - Cycling of Matter
15-Nov Columbia Elem - Science Interns
15-Nov Mesa MS - Energy Transfer
16-Nov Oñate HS - Cycling of Matter
16-Nov Mesa MS - Energy Transfer
19-Nov Take It Outdoors, NM - Turkey Time Children's Event
27-Nov Centennial HS - Cycling of Matter
27-Nov Mesilla Park Elem - Science Interns
27/28-Nov Oñate HS - Cycling of Matter
28-Nov LC Catholic - Animal Adaptations, Arthropod Identification
28-Nov Sunrise Elem - Science Interns
29-Nov Lynn MS - White Sands Lizard
29-Nov J Paul Taylor Academy - Animal Adaptations
29-Nov Mesilla Park Elem - Science Interns
30-Nov Sunrise Elem - Science Interns
3-Dec Camino Real MS - Data Jam
3-Dec Centennial HS - Cycling of Matter
3-Dec Lynn MS - White Sands Lizard
3/4-Dec Vista MS - Greenhouse Effect
4/5-Dec Picacho MS - Energy Transfer
4/5-Dec Sunrise Elem - Science Interns
5/6/7-Dec Sierra MS - White Sands Lizards
6-Dec Columbia Elem - Sun & Shade
7-Dec Picacho MS - Carbon Cycle
7-Dec Mesilla Park Elem - Science Interns
10-Dec Mesilla Park Elem - Science Interns
10-11-Dec Camino Real MS - Data Jam
10-12 Dec Vista MS - Energy Transfer
11-Dec Monte Vista Elem - field trip
12-Dec East Picacho Elem - Plant Structure & Function
12-Dec LC Catholic - Watching the Weather
12-14 Dec Sunrise Elem - Science Interns
13-Dec J Paul Taylor Acad. - Watching the Weather
14-Dec Columbia Elem - field trip
17-Dec Sunrise Elem - Science Interns
17-Dec J Paul Taylor Acad. - Up in the Air
17/18-Dec Camino Real MS - Energy Transfer
7/8-Jan Columbia Elem - Science Interns
9-Jan Centennial HS - Cycling of Matter
9-Jan White Sands MS - White Sands Lizards and Energy Transfers
9-Jan Aldo Leopold MS (Silver City) - Data Jam
10/11-Jan Columbia Elem - Science Interns
10/11-Jan Camino Real MS - Data Jam
11-Jan Red Mountain MS (Deming) - Carbon Cycle
14-17-Jan J Paul Taylor Acad. - Science Interns
14/15-Jan Vista MS - Carbon Cycle
14-Jan Columbia Elem - Desert Stories
16-Jan Columbia Elem - Desert Stories
17-18-Jan LC Catholic - Soil Organic Matter
17-Jan Sunrise Elem - Life Cycles
17-18-Jan Mesa MS - White Sands Lizards
18-Jan Columbia Elem - Desert Stories
22/23-Jan Arrowhead Park HS - Cycling of Matter
22-Jan Columbia Elem - Desert Stories
22-Jan Sunrise Elem (GISD) - Life Cycles
23-Jan Columbia Elem - Desert Stories
24-Jan J Paul Taylor Acad. - Life Cycles
24-Jan Doña Ana Elem - Plant Structure & Function
24-Jan J Paul Taylor Acad. - LandPKS
25-Jan J Paul Taylor Acad. - LandPKS
25-Jan Columbia Elem - Desert Stories
28-Jan E Picacho Elem - Desert Stories
29-Jan J Paul Taylor Acad. - LandPKS
29-Jan Aldo Leopold MS - Data Jam
30-Jan E Picacho Elem - Desert Stories
30-Jan LC Catholic - Life Cycles
31-Jan J Paul Taylor Acad. - LandPKS
31-Jan Zia MS - Data Jam
Asombro Booster Club
(monthly donors)
Stephanie & Brandon Bestelmeyer
Mark Courtney
Jean A Davis
Gene & Maureen Gant
Libby Grace
Carolyn Gressitt & John Freyermuth
Stephanie Haan-Amato & Jeff Amato
Anna & John Kimtis
Deb Peters
Norman Todd
Justin Van Zee
Jim & Kathy Vorenberg
Walt & Linda Whitford
Donna Yargosz

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Obsidian
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Laura Humphreys
Michael & Diane Lilley
Traci Mikesell
Rink Somerday & John Holloway
Rachel Szczytko
Eunice & John Zemek

**Wonder Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service: Kathy Groves**

By Stephanie Haan-Amato

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another. ~Erma Bombeck

Asombro volunteers are a perfect example of “compassion, unselfish caring, and patience.” We especially admire their patience, which tends to be most evident in those who help us in middle school classrooms. We are grateful for our volunteers, and in a small gesture of appreciation, we choose one volunteer every quarter to receive our Wonder Award for outstanding volunteer service.

When our staff sat down to select our next recipient, the choice was unanimous! We all feel that the Asombro Wonder Award recipient for the 1st Quarter of 2019, Kathy Groves, completely embodies the spirit of volunteerism.

Kathy has been volunteering with us for over 10 years, and as a retired teacher, she is a huge asset in any educational setting. That’s her specialty, teaching with us in classrooms and on field trips. Not many of our volunteers learn to teach Asombro activities themselves; most are a much needed second set of hands for an Asombro staff person, but early on, Kathy offered to learn and lead stations herself during elementary field trips to the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park and Jornada Experimental Range.

Kathy is just as skilled at leading third graders through a field trip station on plant adaptations as she is helping seventh graders rotate through mini-stations about natural selection in a classroom. She will gently challenge students to do their best while having a great time with the science content. She is engaging and knowledgeable, and students enjoy her energy and warmth.

I’ve seen a staff member check the teaching calendar and see that they are scheduled to teach with Kathy, and give a cheer and fist pump. We all know that if Kathy is with us in a classroom, it’ll be a fun and amazing day!
We love having students visit the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park to participate in long-term studies about the desert! Asombro has exciting plans to do even more of this in 2019.